



NEWS RELEASE

Placer County Water Agency

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FORESTHILL, Placer County -- Directors of the Placer County Water Agency on Thursday (Apr. 13) heard a presentation on the process being used by the agency to obtain a new federal license for the PCWA Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project.

A team of specialists working on the relicensing project gathered with the board at their meeting held at the Foresthill Veterans Memorial Hall.

PCWA Director of Resource Development Mal Toy, who is coordinating the relicensing project, provided an overview and introduced the team assisting the agency through the federal Relicense process.

John Christensen, P.E., of Christensen Associates, Inc., of San Rafael, is studying how project facilities and operations can be upgraded and improved during and after the relicensing process.

Edward Bianchi Jr., PhD, of Entrix Environmental Consultants in Sacramento, is evaluating environmental aspects of the project.

Marie Rainwater, of Rainwater Associates, based in Oakland, is coordinating stakeholder outreach, facilitation and process management.

Tom Jackson, of Pacific Legacy in Santa Cruz, is working on Native American tribal issues and historical and archeological resources in the area.

Advance preparation for the relicensing is expected to result in a formal PCWA application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by 2012 and a new federal license by 2013.

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PCWA constructed the Middle Fork Project in 1963-67 under a 50-year federal license that must be renewed by February 2013. The project includes five power plants and seven dams and reservoirs with the two largest being French Meadows and Hell Hole Reservoirs in Placer County's American River watershed.

In other business, directors:

- heard an update from Kevin Goishi, partnership coordinator for the Pacific Gas & Electric Co., to the agency on a planned repair to a surge shaft on a tunnel above the PCWA Middle Fork Powerhouse Penstock. Goishi described the highly technical project and said work would likely begin in 2007.

- reviewed and discussed PCWA Power System budgets for the years 2007-11 and scheduled the budgets for board action at their next regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday (Apr. 20) in the Board of Supervisors chambers, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, in Auburn. PCWA board meetings are open to the public. For information about agency Board meetings, contact the Clerk to the Board at (530) 823-4860.